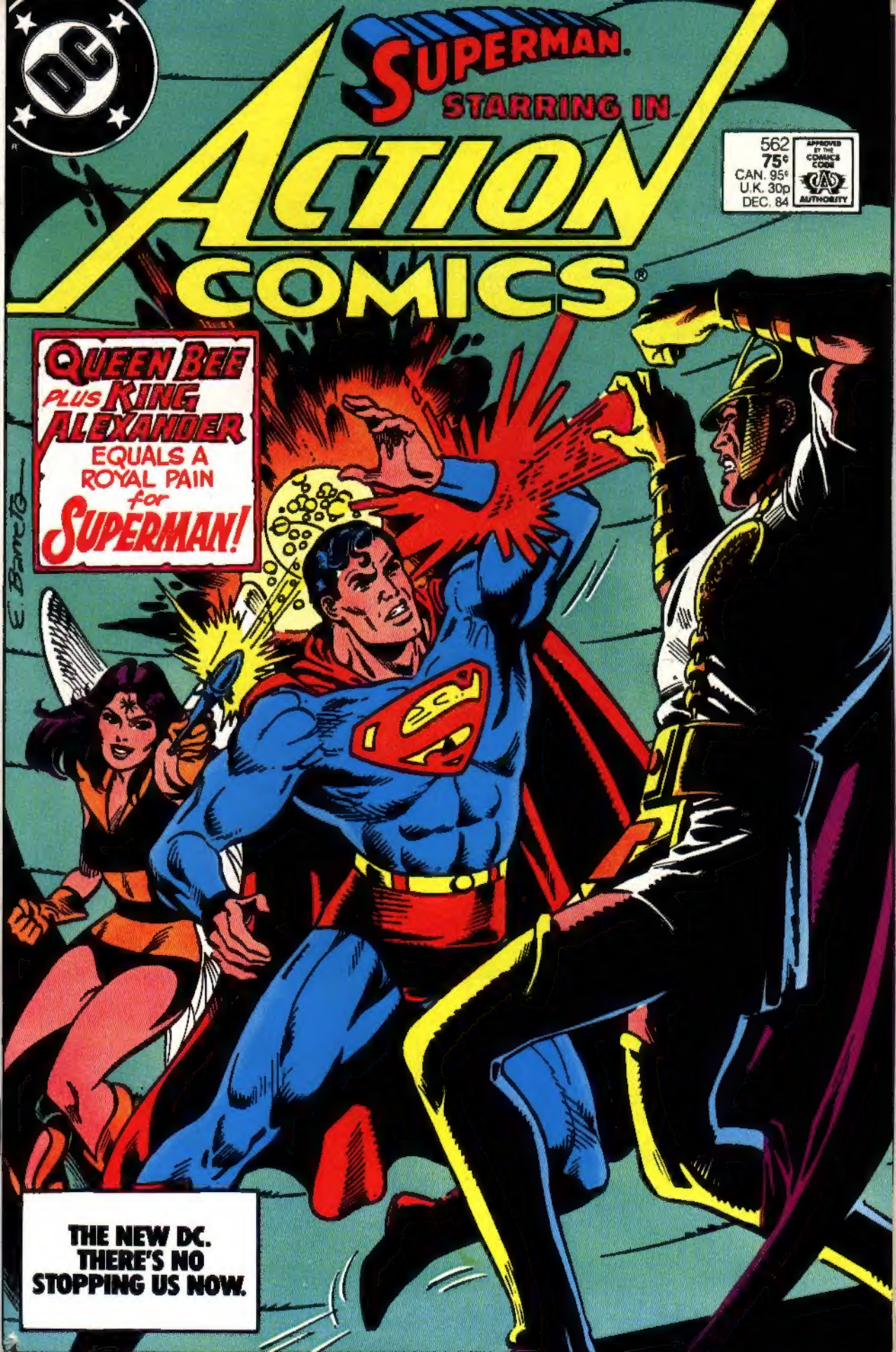
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
562
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U.K. 30p
DEC. 84
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
QUEEN BEE PLUS KING ALEXANDER EQUALS A ROYAL PAIN for SUPERMAN!
THE NEW DC. THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.

BOB ROZAKIS - WRITER
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KURT SCHAFFENBERGER - PENCILLER
GENE D'ANGELO - COLORIST
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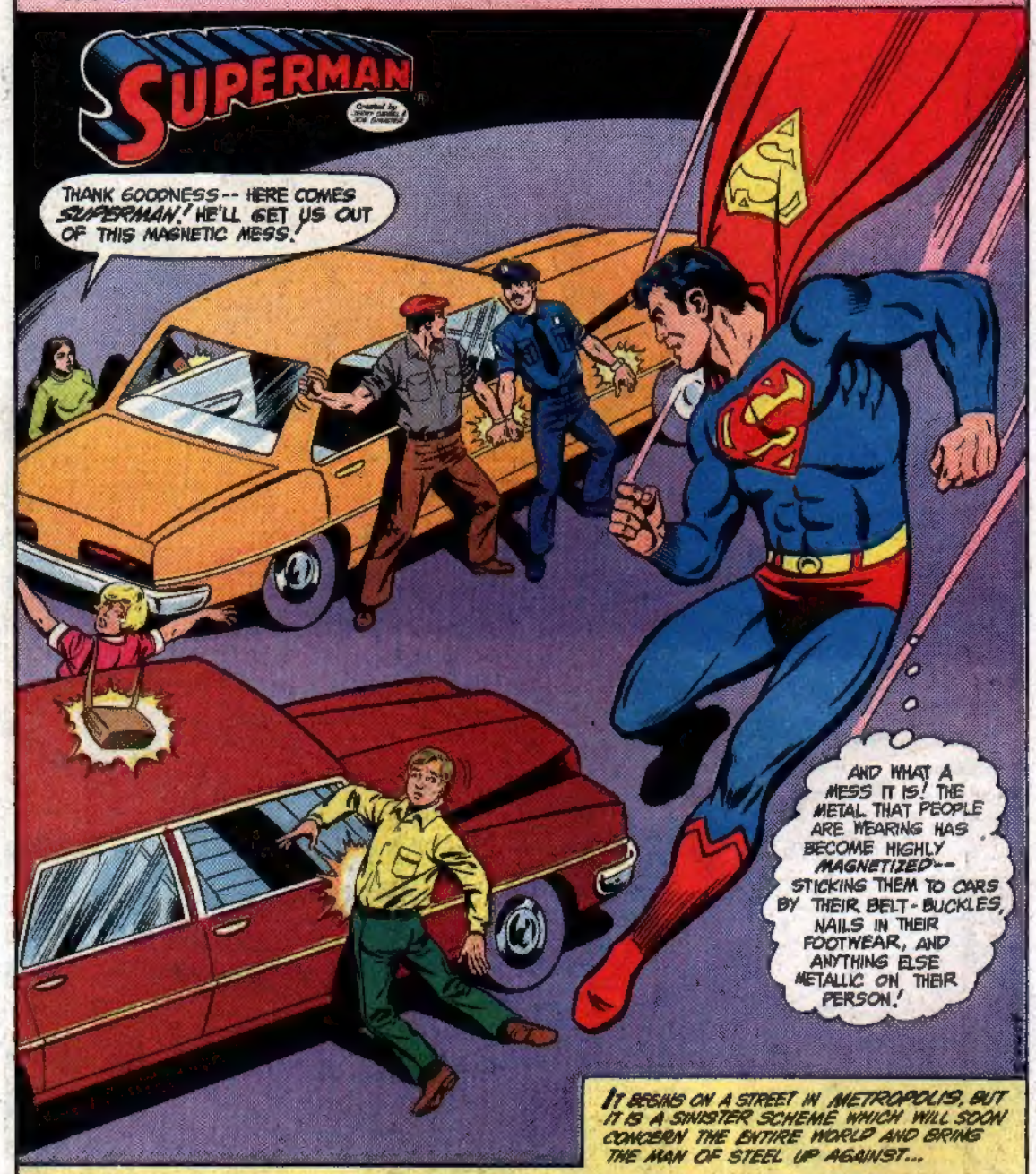
SUPERMAN
THANK GOODNESS -- HERE COMES SUPERMAN! HE'LL GET US OUT OF THIS MAGNETIC MESS.
AND WHAT A MESS IT IS! THE METAL THAT PEOPLE ARE WEARING HAS BECOME HIGHLY MAGNETIZED -- STICKING THEM TO CARS BY THEIR BELT-BUCKLES, NAILS IN THEIR FOOTWEAR, AND ANYTHING ELSE METALLIC ON THEIR PERSON!

IT BEGINS ON A STREET IN METROPOLIS, BUT IT IS A SINISTER SCHEME WHICH WILL SOON CONCERN THE ENTIRE WORLD AND BRING THE MAN OF STEEL UP AGAINST...

"THEIR MAGNETIC MAJESTIES -- KING ALEXANDER and QUEEN BEE!"

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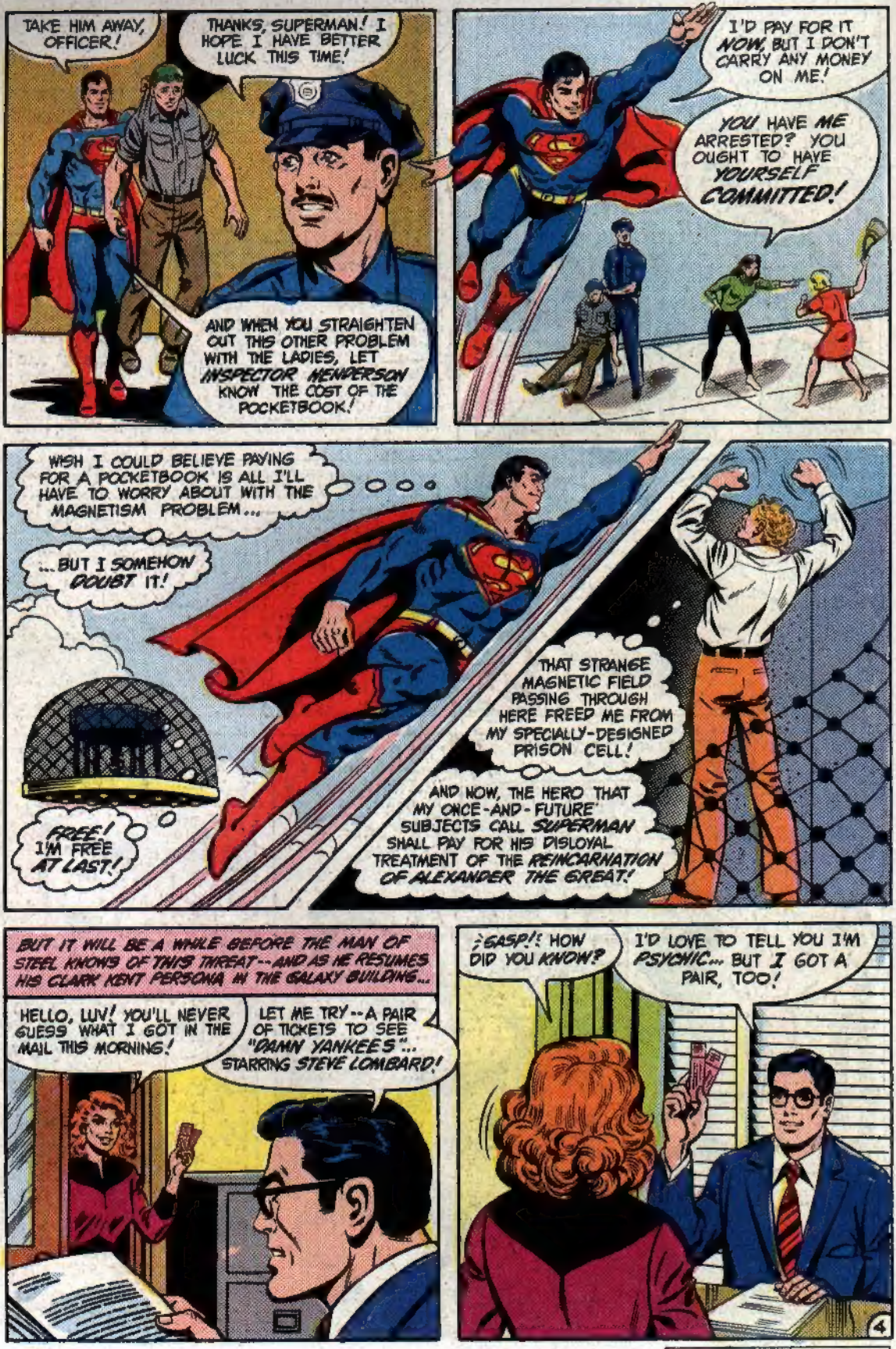
A QUICK BURST OF HEAT VISION AND..
...SORRY ABOUT YOUR BELT, SIR!
BESIDES, IT'LL MAKE A GREAT SOUVENIR...
... IF I CAN PULL THE BLASTED THING OFF THE CAR!
STRUGGLING TO GET LOOSE IS ONLY MAKING IT WORSE, MA'AM--
NO PROBLEM, SUPERMAN! I'VE HEARD OF BEING STUCK ON ONE'S CAR, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
WHAT A STUPID WAY TO LOOSEN IT! YOU RUINED MY TWO-HUNDRED-DOLLAR POCKETBOOK, YOU GAF!
--ALLOW ME TO HELP--
SNAP!
DON'T WALK AWAY FROM ME, MR. SUPER-HERO! WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR MY POCKETBOOK?
BOTH ARMS ARE STUCK TO THE CAR!
LONG AS I GOT A FREE HAND I'LL PUT IT TO GOOD USE--
YEEOWW!
SMAKK
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, LADY? THE MAN WAS DOING YOU A FAVOR! YOU OWE HIM THANKS!
--SO WILL I!
2

THERE YOU GO, OFFICER, CARRY ON.
THANKS, SUPERMAN!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS GUY WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO ADD ASSAULTING A POLICE OFFICER TO PETTY THEFT?
SNAP
TAKES ALL KINDS, I GUESS!
OFFICER! I DEMAND YOU ARREST SUPERMAN... OR GIVE HIM A SUMMONS ...OR SOMETHING!
I DEMAND HE BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DAMAGE TO MY VERY EXPENSIVE POCKETBOOK!
NONE OF MY SUPER-SENSES CAN DETECT A CAUSE FOR THIS BIZARRE MAGNETISM!
IGNORE THIS NINNY, OFFICER! SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN SHE'S WELL OFF!
JUST AS SUDDENLY AND MYSTERIOUSLY AS IT BEGAN, THE MAGNETISM IS GONE...
"NINNY"?! YOU HEARD THAT, OFFICER! I DEMAND SHE BE ARRESTED FOR DEFAMING ME IN PUBLIC!
KEEP ARGUIN', SUCKERS, WHILE I GET OUTTA HERE!
COUPLE MORE STEPS AND I'M GONE--
URP! HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
WOULD YOU BELIEVE WITH A SINGLE BOUND?
BONK


TAKE HIM AWAY, OFFICER!
THANKS, SUPERMAN! I HOPE I HAVE BETTER LUCK THIS TIME!
AND WHEN YOU STRAIGHTEN OUT THIS OTHER PROBLEM WITH THE LADIES, LET INSPECTOR HENDERSON KNOW THE COST OF THE POCKETBOOK!
I'D PAY FOR IT NOW, BUT I DON'T CARRY ANY MONEY ON ME!
YOU HAVE ME ARRESTED? YOU OUGHT TO HAVE YOURSELF COMMITTED!
WISH I COULD BELIEVE PAYING FOR A POCKETBOOK IS ALL I'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WITH THE MAGNETISM PROBLEM...
...BUT I SOMEHOW DOUBT IT!
FREE! I'M FREE AT LAST!
THAT STRANGE MAGNETIC FIELD PASSING THROUGH HERE FREED ME FROM MY SPECIALLY-DESIGNED PRISON CELL!
AND NOW, THE HERO THAT MY ONCE-AND-FUTURE SUBJECTS CALL SUPERMAN SHALL PAY FOR HIS DISLOYAL TREATMENT OF THE REINCARNATION OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT!
BUT IT WILL BE A WHILE BEFORE THE MAN OF STEEL KNOWS OF THIS THREAT--AND AS HE RESUMES HIS CLARK KENT PERSONA IN THE GALAXY BUILDING...
HELLO, LUV! YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I GOT IN THE MAIL THIS MORNING!
LET ME TRY--A PAIR OF TICKETS TO SEE "DAMN YANKEES"... STARRING STEVE LOMBARD!
¡GASP!! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I'D LOVE TO TELL YOU I'M PSYCHIC... BUT I GOT A PAIR, TOO!
4

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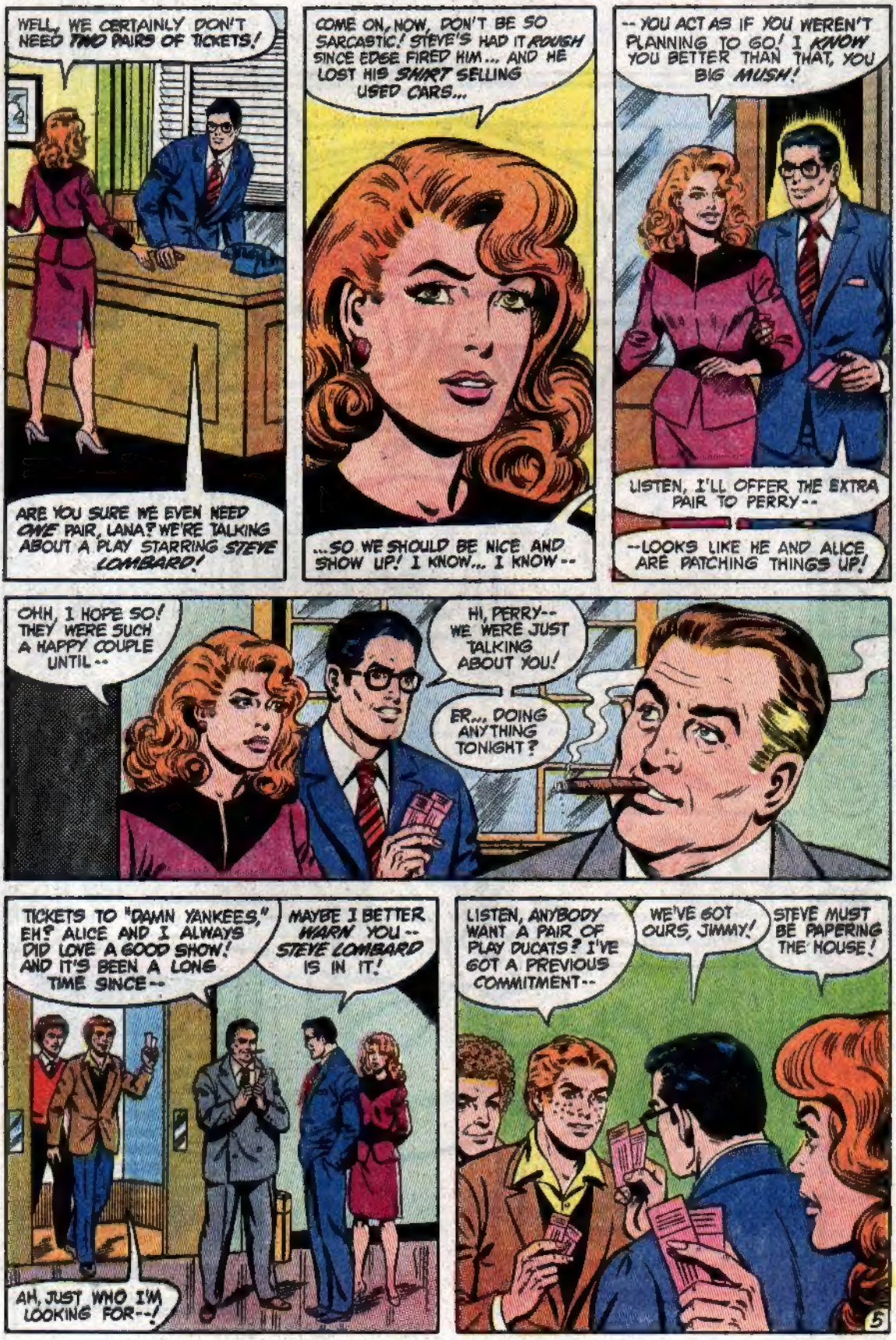
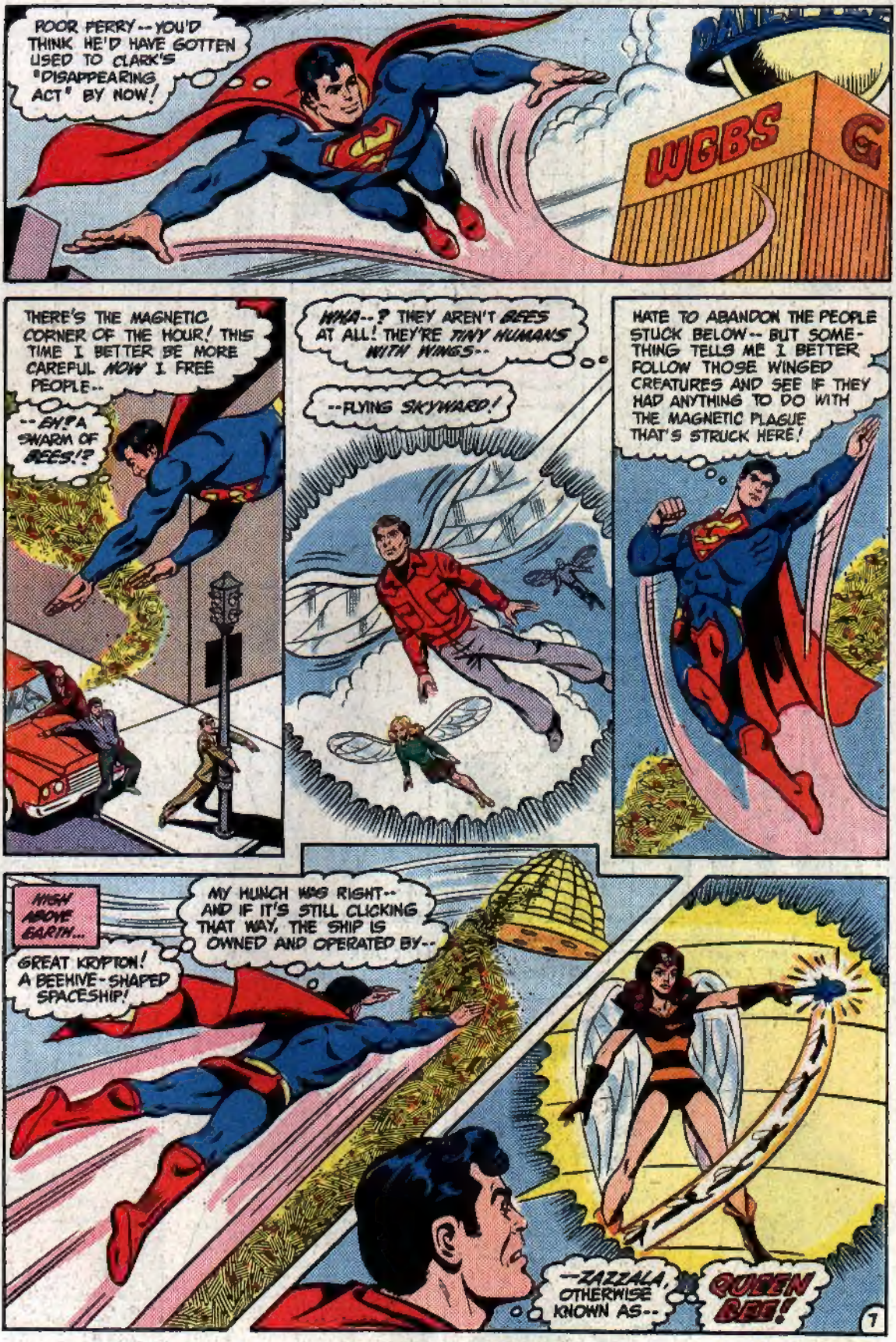
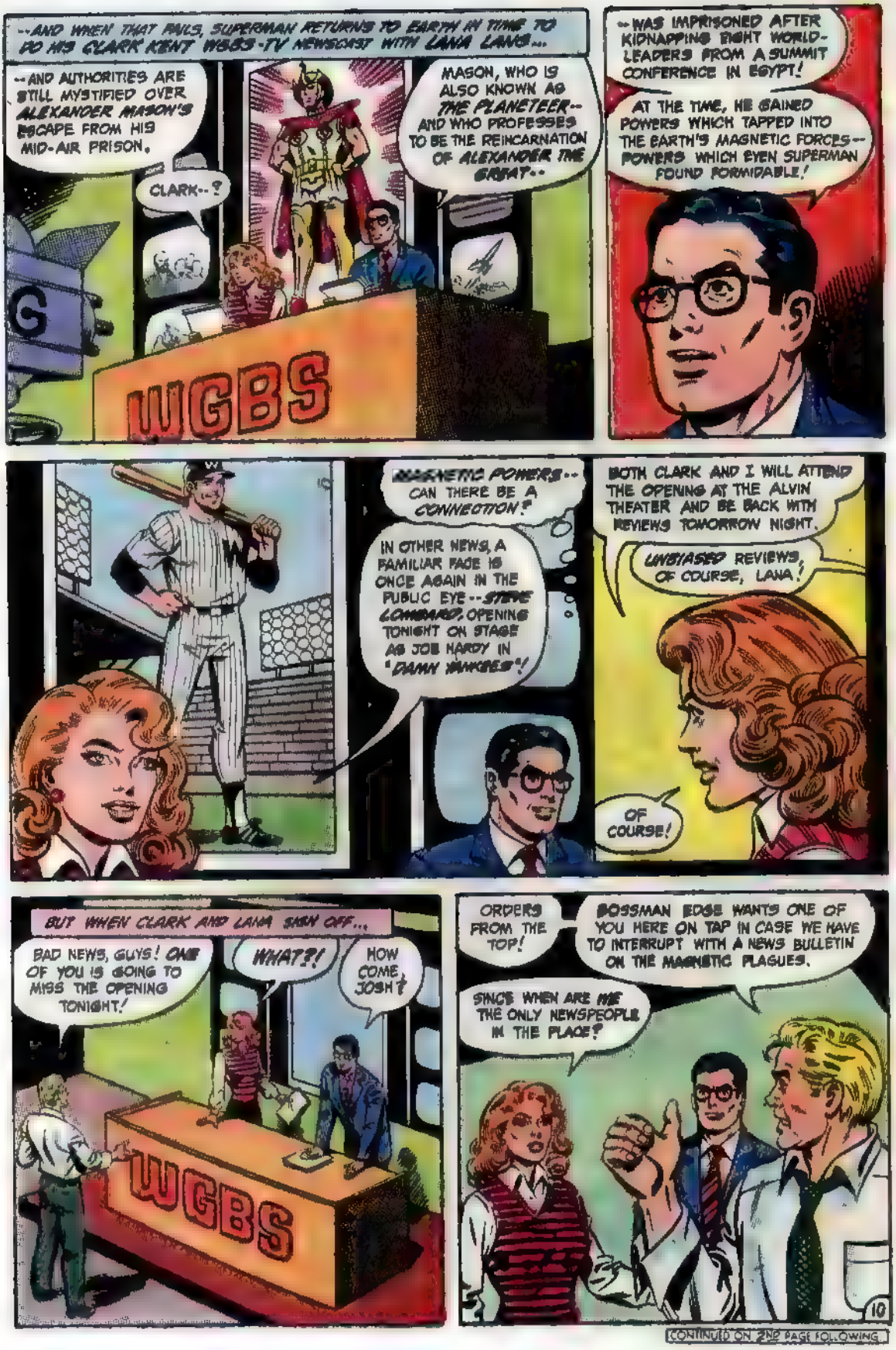

WELL, WE CERTAINLY DON'T NEED TWO PAIRS OF TICKETS!
ARE YOU SURE WE EVEN NEED ONE PAIR, LANA? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A PLAY STARRING STEVE LOMBARD!
COME ON, NOW, DON'T BE SO SARCASTIC! STEVE'S HAD IT ROUGH SINCE EDSE FIRED HIM... AND HE LOST HIS SHIRT SELLING USED CARS...
...SO WE SHOULD BE NICE AND SHOW UP! I KNOW... I KNOW--
-- YOU ACT AS IF YOU WEREN'T PLANNING TO GO! I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN THAT, YOU BIG MUSH!
LISTEN, I'LL OFFER THE EXTRA PAIR TO PERRY--
--LOOKS LIKE HE AND ALICE ARE PATCHING THINGS UP!
OHH, I HOPE SO! THEY WERE SUCH A HAPPY COUPLE UNTIL--
HI, PERRY-- WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU!
ER... DOING ANYTHING TONIGHT?
TICKETS TO "DAMN YANKEES," EH? ALICE AND I ALWAYS DID LOVE A GOOD SHOW! AND IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE--
MAYBE I BETTER WARN YOU-- STEVE LOMBARD IS IN IT!
AH, JUST WHO I'M LOOKING FOR--!
LISTEN, ANYBODY WANT A PAIR OF PLAY DUCATS? I'VE GOT A PREVIOUS COMMITMENT--
WE'VE GOT OURS, JIMMY!
STEVE MUST BE PAPERING THE HOUSE!
5

I'LL TAKE 'EM! AND I KNOW JUST THE LADY TO JOIN ME!
HEY, I DON'T REMEMBER OFFERING THEM TO YOU, HOTSHOT!
YOU SAID, "ANYBODY WANT THE TICKETS," JIMBO! I'M AS MUCH AN "ANYBODY" AS ANYBODY!
HA HA! CAN'T ARGUE WITH LOGIC LIKE THAT, JIM!
NOW, IF ALL THE TICKET NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCLUDED, LET'S SEE ABOUT RUNNING A NEWSPAPER, SHALL WE?
YOU'RE THE BOSS, CHIEF!
JIMBO, YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER THAN TO CALL THE BOSS "CHIEF"!
MOORE -- DON'T CALL ME "BOSS"!
OLSEN -- ANOTHER MAGNETIC PLAGUE ON THE CORNER OF WAYNE AND BORING! GET GOING...
...AND TAKE WONDER BOY WITH YOU! SHOW HIM HOW A REAL REPORTER WORKS!
I... UM... WANTED TO...
NOW, JUSTIN! MOVE IT!
DID YOU HEAR WHAT I JUST SAID, CLARK? I CALLED OLSEN A "REAL REPORTER"!
I MUST BE GETTING OLD!
CLARK--?
GONE--!? I MUST BE GETTING DEAF, TOO! I DIDN'T HEAR CLARK LEAVE!
6

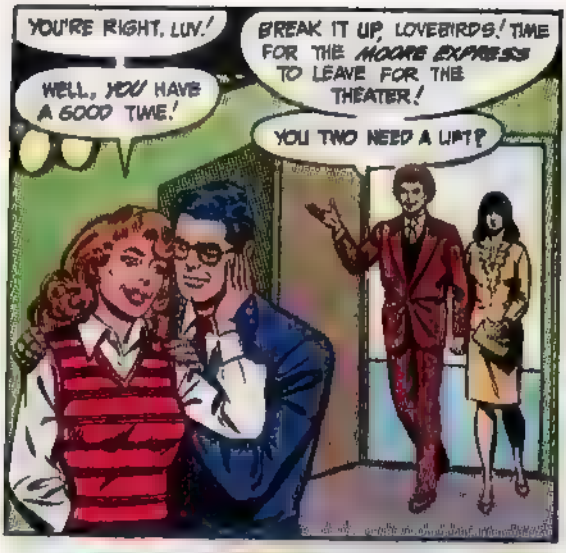

POOR PERRY--YOU'D THINK HE'D HAVE GOTTEN USED TO CLARK'S "DISAPPEARING ACT" BY NOW!
WGBS
THERE'S THE MAGNETIC CORNER OF THE HOUR! THIS TIME I BETTER BE MORE CAREFUL NOW I FREE PEOPLE--
--BY A SWARM OF BEES!?
HMM--? THEY AREN'T BEES AT ALL! THEY'RE TINY HUMANS WITH WINGS--
--FLYING SKYWARD!
I HATE TO ABANDON THE PEOPLE STUCK BELOW-- BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME I BETTER FOLLOW THOSE WINGED CREATURES AND SEE IF THEY HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MAGNETIC PLAGUE THAT'S STRUCK HERE!
HIGH ABOVE EARTH...
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT-- AND IF IT'S STILL CLICKING THAT WAY, THE SHIP IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY--
GREAT KRYPTON! A BEEHIVE-SHAPED SPACESHIP!
--ZAZZALA, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS--
QUEEN BEE!
7

SUPERMAN, HOW EXQUISITE OF YOU TO VISIT ME IN MY HOUR OF POWER!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO EARTH FROM YOUR PLANET, KORLL, BUT I'M SURE IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING GOOD!
PLEASE STAND BY UNTIL MY DRONES HAVE FINISHED STINGING ME! I THEN SHALL ENTERTAIN YOUR PRESENCE!
THOSE BEE-PEOPLE-- DISINTEGRATING! YOU'RE KILLING THEM!
HARDLY! THEY ARE NOT LIVING CREATURES--
--MERELY MANIFESTATIONS OF MAGNETIC ENERGY I HAVE STOLEN FROM THEIR EARTHLY COUNTERPARTS!
SO YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAGNETIC DISTURBANCES IN METROPOLIS!
BUT OF COURSE! AND BEFORE YOU ASK WHY, I WILL DEMONSTRATE WHAT IT IS I DO--
--EXTRACT MAGNETIC ENERGY FROM OTHERS IN ORDER THAT I MAY REMAIN MOBILE!
;GASP!; A "SUPER-BEE" FLYING OUT OF MY BODY!?
HAPPY LANDING, LITTLE ONE!
SINCE LAST WE BATTLED, SUPERMAN, I HAVE NOT ONLY REGAINED IMMORTALITY, I ALSO DISCOVERED A WAY TO KEEP MY MOBILITY!*
*Queen Bee's immortality / immobility dilemma was recounted in Justice League #60! --Julie.
THE SIDE EFFECTS ON THOSE WHO SERVE ME ARE THE "MAGNETIC PLAGUES," AS YOU CALL THEM!
THE WITHDRAWAL OF MAGNETIC ENERGY TEMPORARILY MAGNETIZES METALLIC OBJECTS IN CONTACT WITH THE "DONER"--AS NOW DEMONSTRATED BY YOUR BEING PULLED TOWARD THE SIDE OF MY SHIP!
8

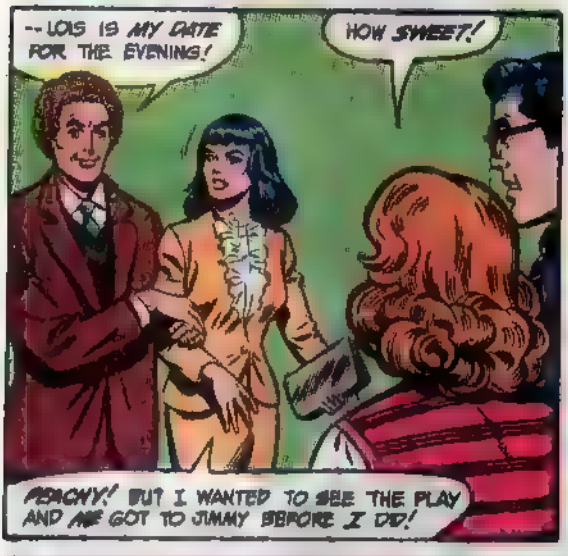
MY BELT-BUCKLE--ALONG WITH THE METAL IN CLARK'S GLASSES, BELT, AND SHOES -- HOLDING ME FAST!
NOT EVEN MY SUPER-STRENGTH--
NOT EVEN YOUR SUPER-STRENGTH CAN FREE YOU, MY DRONE!
THE POWER OF THE "MAGNETIC PLAGUE" IS EQUAL--AND OPPOSITE-- TO THE POWER I HAVE STOLEN!
STRUGGLE ALL YOU WISH--IT WILL BE FUTILE!
HOWEVER, THE EFFECT WILL WEAR OFF--
--THOUGH I DO NOT PROPOSE TO BE HERE WHEN IT DOES!
QUEEN BEE WAS TAUNTING ME -- BUT SHE UNWITTINGLY TOLD ME SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
SHE CAN'T TAP THE SAME PERSON REPEATEDLY! OTHERWISE SHE'D CONTINUALLY USE HER MAGNETIC TRICK ON ME WHENEVER THE EFFECT WORE OFF!
I'LL KEEP HER IN SUPER-VISION SIGHT TILL THE MAGNETISM PETERS OUT AND--
--ODD! I CAN'T PICK UP A TRACE OF HER ANYWHERE!
IN QUE TIME...
MAGNETISM'S WEAK ENOUGH FOR ME TO BREAK FREE!
I'LL MAKE ONE MORE TRY AT PICKING UP QUEEN BEE'S TRAIL--
9

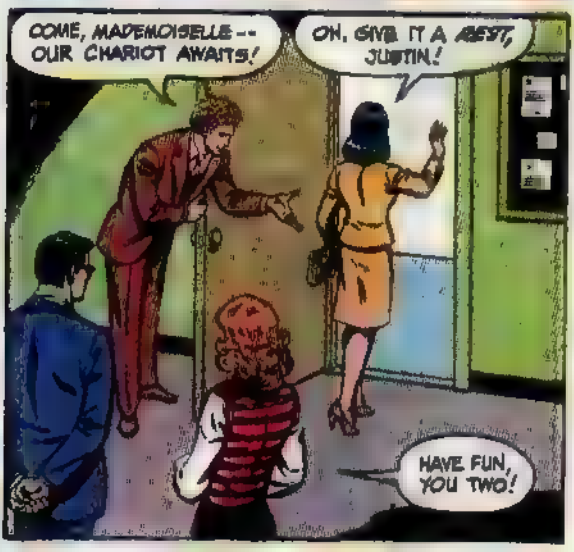

--AND WHEN THAT FAILS, SUPERMAN RETURNS TO EARTH IN TIME TO DO HIS CLARK KENT WGBS-TV NEWSCAST WITH LANA LANG...
--AND AUTHORITIES ARE STILL MYSTIFIED OVER ALEXANDER MASON'S ESCAPE FROM HIS MID-AIR PRISON.
CLARK--?
MASON, WHO IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE PLANETEER--AND WHO PROFESSES TO BE THE REINCARNATION OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT--
WGBS
--WAS IMPRISONED AFTER KIDNAPPING EIGHT WORLD-LEADERS FROM A SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN EGYPT!
AT THE TIME, HE GAINED POWERS WHICH TAPPED INTO THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FORCES--POWERS WHICH EVEN SUPERMAN FOUND FORMIDABLE!
MAGNETIC POWERS--CAN THERE BE A CONNECTION?
IN OTHER NEWS, A FAMILIAR FACE IS ONCE AGAIN IN THE PUBLIC EYE--STEVE LOMBARD, OPENING TONIGHT ON STAGE AS JOE HARDY IN "DAMN YANKEES"!
BOTH CLARK AND I WILL ATTEND THE OPENING AT THE ALVIN THEATER AND BE BACK WITH REVIEWS TOMORROW NIGHT.
UNBIASED REVIEWS, OF COURSE, LANA!
OF COURSE!
BUT WHEN CLARK AND LANA SIGN OFF...
BAD NEWS, GUYS! ONE OF YOU IS GOING TO MISS THE OPENING TONIGHT!
WHAT?!
HOW COME, JOSH?
WGBS
ORDERS FROM THE TOP!
BOSSMAN EDGE WANTS ONE OF YOU HERE ON TAP IN CASE WE HAVE TO INTERRUPT WITH A NEWS BULLETIN ON THE MAGNETIC PLAGUES.
SINCE WHEN ARE WE THE ONLY NEWSPEOPLE IN THE PLACE?
10
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

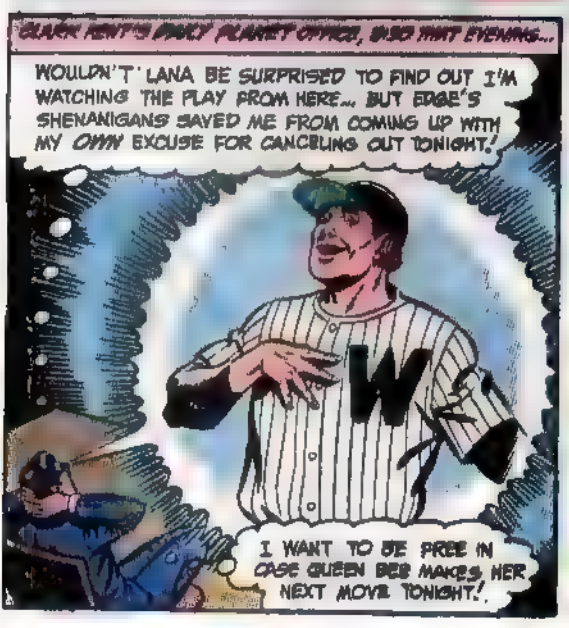
DON'T SHOOT ME, LANA! I'M ONLY THE MESSENGER!
YOU WANT TO DEBATE THE MATTER, TAKE IT UP WITH THE MAN HIMSELF--
YOU BET I WILL, LUV!
-- TOMORROW, LANA! HE TOOK OFF FOR WASHINGTON 30 MINUTES AGO!
NOW I FIGURE THE FAIREST WAY TO DECIDE WHO GETS STUCK HERE IS WITH THE FLIP OF A COIN!
WHAT'S FAIR ABOUT ANY OF THIS?
WE ALL KNOW EDGE IS DOWN ON "FRATERNIZATION" AMONG THE EMPLOYEES. THAT MEANS US, CLARK! HE DID THIS DELIBERATELY, TO KEEP US APART IN PUBLIC!
YOU CALL IT, LANA!
OH... MEANS!
A SUPER-FAST CALCULATION TELLS ME THERE WILL BE 57 FLIPS... SO I WON'T HAVE TO "CHEAT" TO MAKE IT COME UP--
-- TANKS! CLARK WINS! YOU'RE STUCK HERE, LANA!
MR. "SMILING COBRA" GETS HIS JOLLIES PULLING THINGS LIKE THIS!
PROBABLY EVEN HATES THE IDEA OF US GOING TO SEE STEVE -- WHOM HE SACKED PERSONALLY--GETTING SOME NOTORIETY AGAIN!
I AGREE WITH YOU 100% -- BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW!
SMACK!
SAVE YOUR WRATH FOR EDGE! HE DESERVES EVERY BIT OF IT!
11

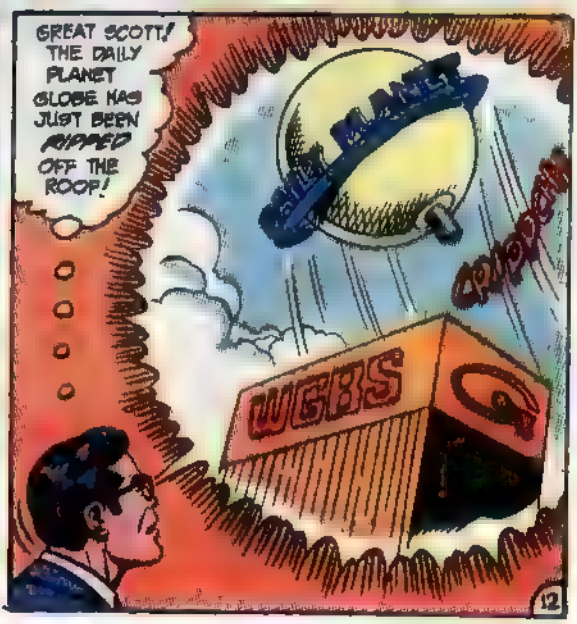

YOU'RE RIGHT, LUV!
BREAK IT UP, LOVEBIRDS! TIME FOR THE MOORE EXPRESS TO LEAVE FOR THE THEATER!
WELL, YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME!
YOU TWO NEED A LIFT?

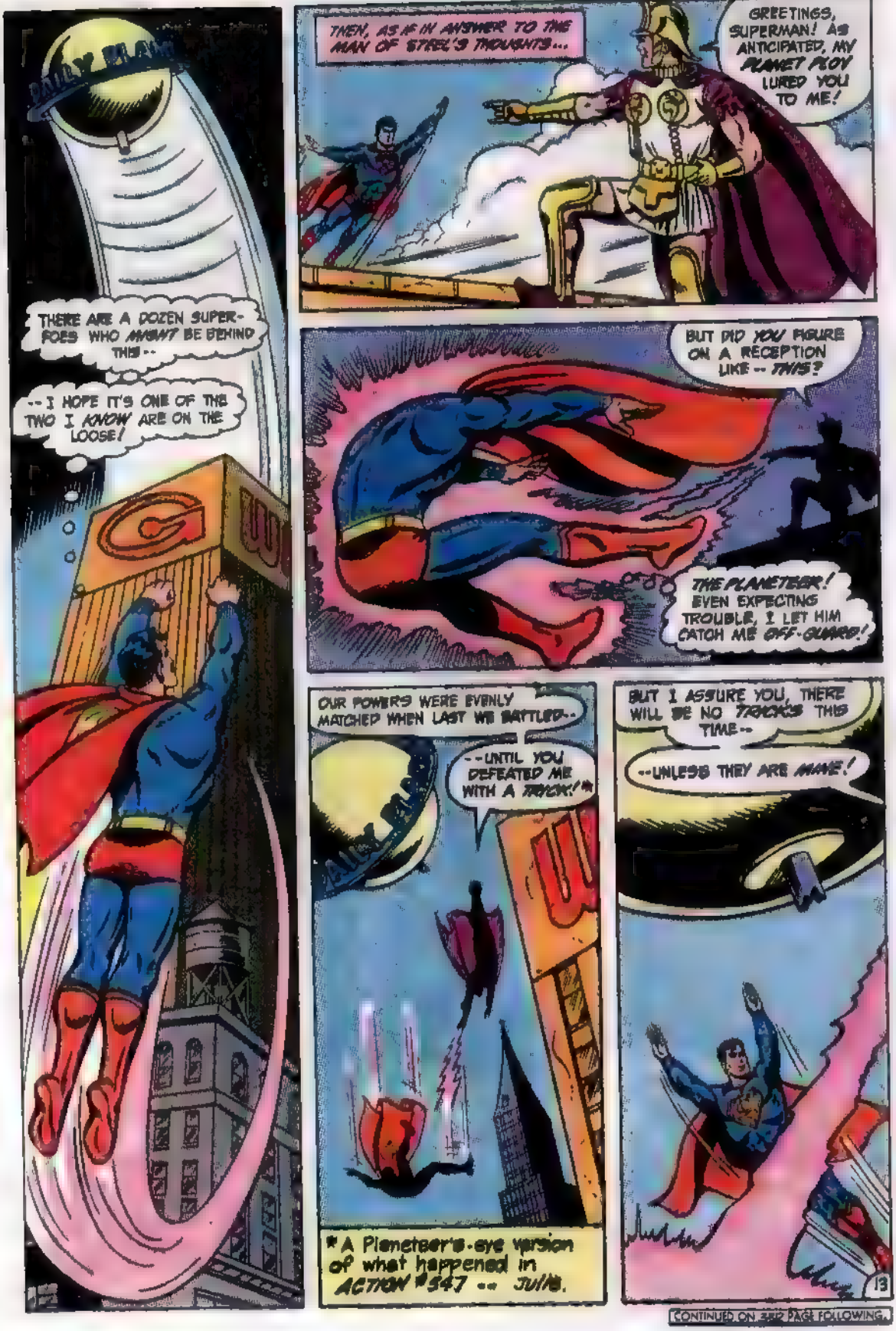
ONLY ONE OF US TWO IS GOING, JUSTIN, AND ME DOESN'T NEED A RIDE!
LOIS-- YOU GOT TICKETS TOO?
IN A WAY--


--LOIS IS MY DATE FOR THE EVENING!
HOW SWEET!
PEACHY! BUT I WANTED TO SEE THE PLAY AND ME GOT TO JIMMY BEFORE I DID!


COME, MADEMOISELLE-- OUR CHARIOT AWAITS!
OH, GIVE IT A REST, JUSTIN!
HAVE FUN, YOU TWO!


CLARK KENT'S DAILY PLANET OFFICE, SAME EVENING...
WOULDN'T LANA BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT I'M WATCHING THE PLAY FROM HERE... BUT EDGE'S SHENANIGANS SAVED ME FROM COMING UP WITH MY OWN EXCUSE FOR CANCELING OUT TONIGHT!
I WANT TO BE FREE IN CASE QUEEN BEE MAKES HER NEXT MOVE TONIGHT!

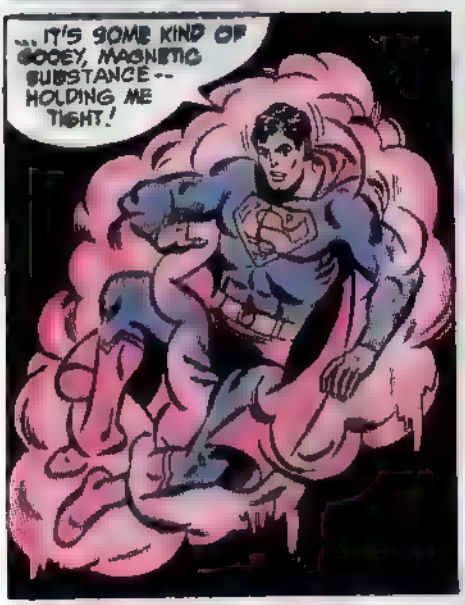

GREAT SCOTT! THE DAILY PLANET GLOBE HAS JUST BEEN RIPPED OFF THE ROOF!
DAILY PLANET
CRASH
WGBS
12


DAILY PLANET
THERE ARE A DOZEN SUPER-FOES WHO MIGHT BE BEHIND THIS--
--I HOPE IT'S ONE OF THE TWO I KNOW ARE ON THE LOOSE!
THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE MAN OF STEEL'S THOUGHTS...
GREETINGS, SUPERMAN! AS ANTICIPATED, MY PLANET PLOY LURED YOU TO ME!
BUT DID YOU FIGURE ON A RECEPTION LIKE -- THIS?
THE PLANETEER! EVEN EXPECTING TROUBLE, I LET HIM CATCH ME OFF-GUARD!
OUR POWERS WERE EVENLY MATCHED WHEN LAST WE BATTLED--
--UNTIL YOU DEFEATED ME WITH A TRICK!*
*A Planeteer's-eye version of what happened in ACTION #347 -- Julie.
BUT I ASSURE YOU, THERE WILL BE NO TRICKS THIS TIME--
--UNLESS THEY ARE MINE!
13

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

YOU'VE BEEN A WORLD-SAVER LONG ENOUGH!
IT'S HIGH TIME YOU BECAME A WORLD-WRECKER! HA HA!
AIIIY PLEE
CRABLAMM
USED HIS MAGNETIC POWER TO SEND THE PLANET-GLOBE CRASHING INTO ME!
CAN'T LET THESE CHUNKS FALL ON ANYBODY BELOW!
I'LL PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER LATER, OFFICER. MEANTIME, MAKE SURE NOBODY TAKES ANY OF THEM AWAY AS A SOUVENIR!
WHAT IRONY! THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN ... CAUSED BY SUPERMAN!
THERE HE IS -- I'LL TURN ON THE SUPER-SPEED AND GRAB HIM BEFORE HE CAN BLAST ME AGAIN!
14

GREAT KRYPTON-- THIS ISN'T THE PLANETEER...

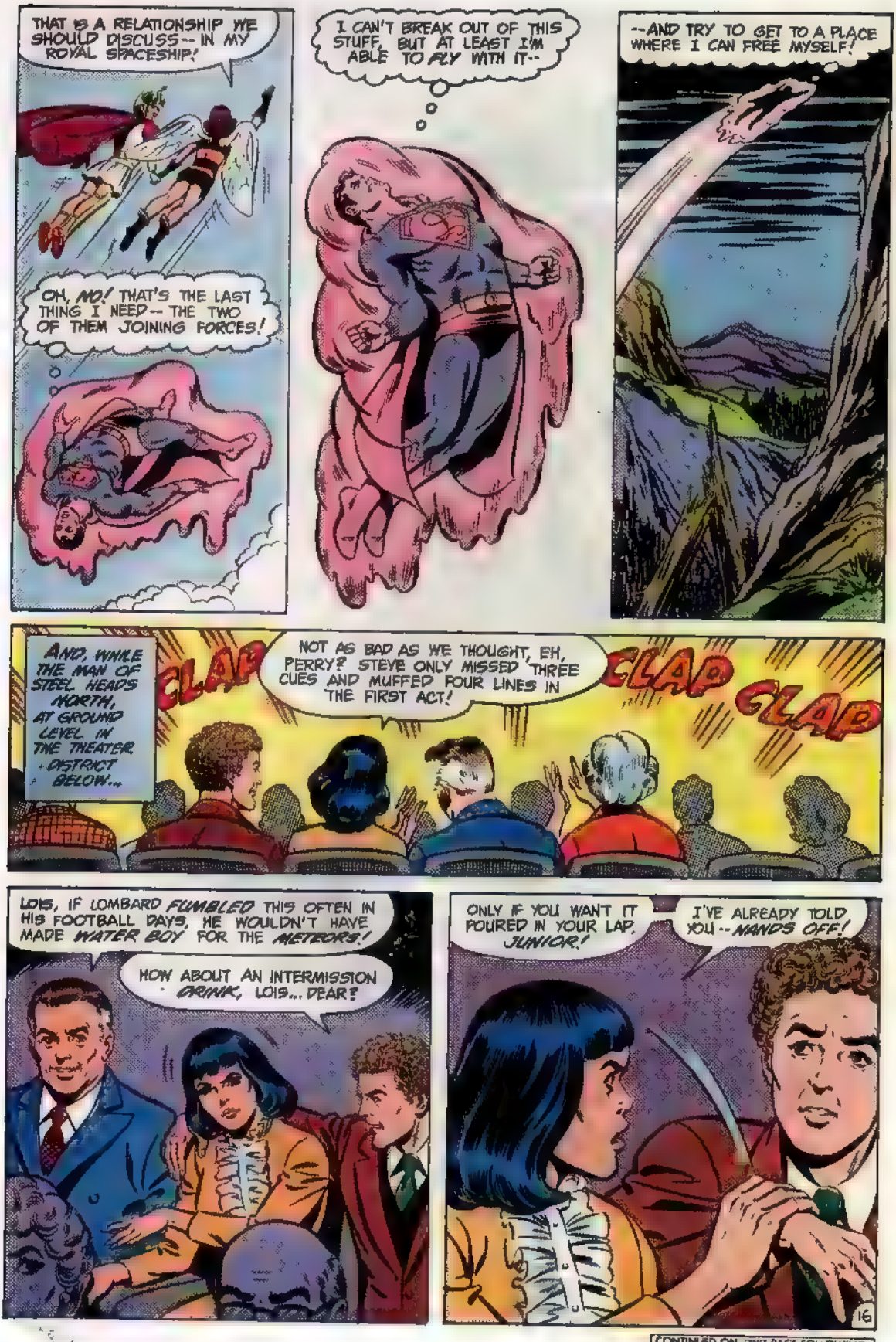

...IT'S SOME KIND OF GOOEY, MAGNETIC SUBSTANCE-- HOLDING ME TIGHT!

I MADE IT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, SUPERMAN! SORRY TO SAY, I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA HOW YOU CAN GET OUT OF IT--
--ASSUMING THERE IS A HOW!

HOWEVER, SHOULD YOU FIND ONE, BE SURE TO LET ME-- EH?
BRAVO, PLANETEER--

--ON YOUR TREMENDOUS FEAT OF OVERCOMING OUR MUTUAL FOE!
"OUR" MUTUAL FOE?! YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN THAT -- WHOEVER YOU ARE!

ON MY WORLD OF KORLL, I AM KNOWN AS ZAZZALA! ON EARTH, I HAVE BEEN DUBBED THE QUEEN BEE!
A QUEEN, EH? ONE WHO MIGHT CONSIDER HERSELF WORTHY OF A KING SUCH AS MYSELF?

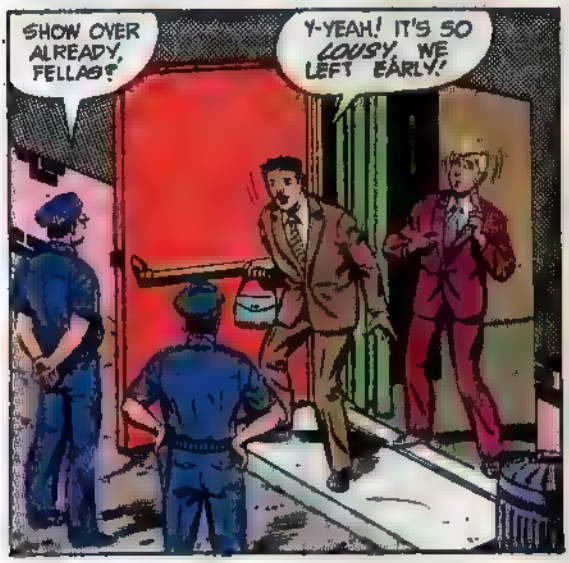

THAT IS A RELATIONSHIP WE SHOULD DISCUSS-- IN MY ROYAL SPACESHIP!
OH, NO! THAT'S THE LAST THING I NEED-- THE TWO OF THEM JOINING FORCES!
I CAN'T BREAK OUT OF THIS STUFF, BUT AT LEAST I'M ABLE TO FLY WITH IT--
--AND TRY TO GET TO A PLACE WHERE I CAN FREE MYSELF!
AND, WHILE THE MAN OF STEEL HEADS NORTH, AT GROUND LEVEL IN THE THEATER DISTRICT BELOW...
CLAP
NOT AS BAD AS WE THOUGHT, EH, PERRY? STEVE ONLY MISSED THREE CUES AND MUFFED FOUR LINES IN THE FIRST ACT!
CLAP
CLAP
LOIS, IF LOMBARD FUMBLED THIS OFTEN IN HIS FOOTBALL DAYS, HE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE WATER BOY FOR THE METEORS!
HOW ABOUT AN INTERMISSION DRINK, LOIS... DEAR?
ONLY IF YOU WANT IT POURED IN YOUR LAP, JUNIOR!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU-- HANDS OFF!
16

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

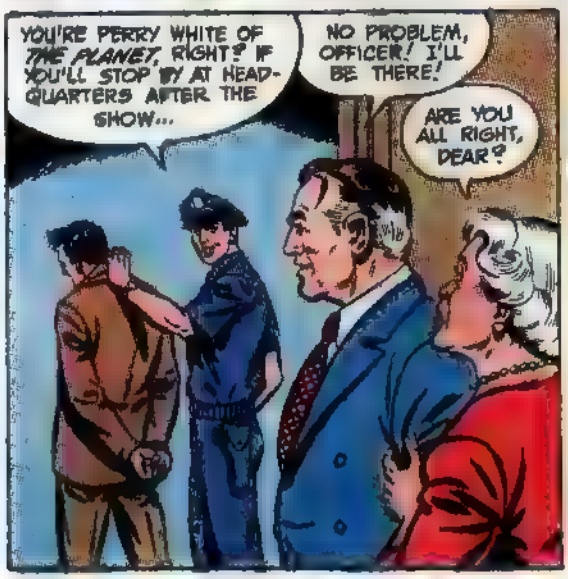
EX-CUSE ME! I HAVE TO POWDER MY NOSE!
AW, COME ON, LOIS! I WAS JUST KIDDING!
LOIS, GIVE ME A BREAK!
ISN'T HE A BIT YOUNG FOR HER, PERRY?
DON'T ASK ME TO EXPLAIN THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY, ALICE. I HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE FIGURING OUT OLD FOGIES LIKE US!
YOU'LL NEVER BE OLD TO ME, SWEETHEART!
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!
WHAT'S THE MATTER--?
THOSE TWO-- THEY'VE BEEN WORKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE AISLES, "APPROPRIATING" WHATEVER THEY FIND LEFT IN COATS!
HEY, YOU GUYS! CUT THAT OUT!
THAT GEEZER'S ON TO US!
LET'S CUT OUT!
17

HOLD IT, YOU TWO! STOP 'EM, SOMEBODY!
WE'LL MAKE IT OUTTA HERE OKAY! NO ONE ELSE WANTS TO GET INVOLVED!

EXIT
THROUGH THE FIRE EXIT— AND WE'RE IN THE CLEAR!

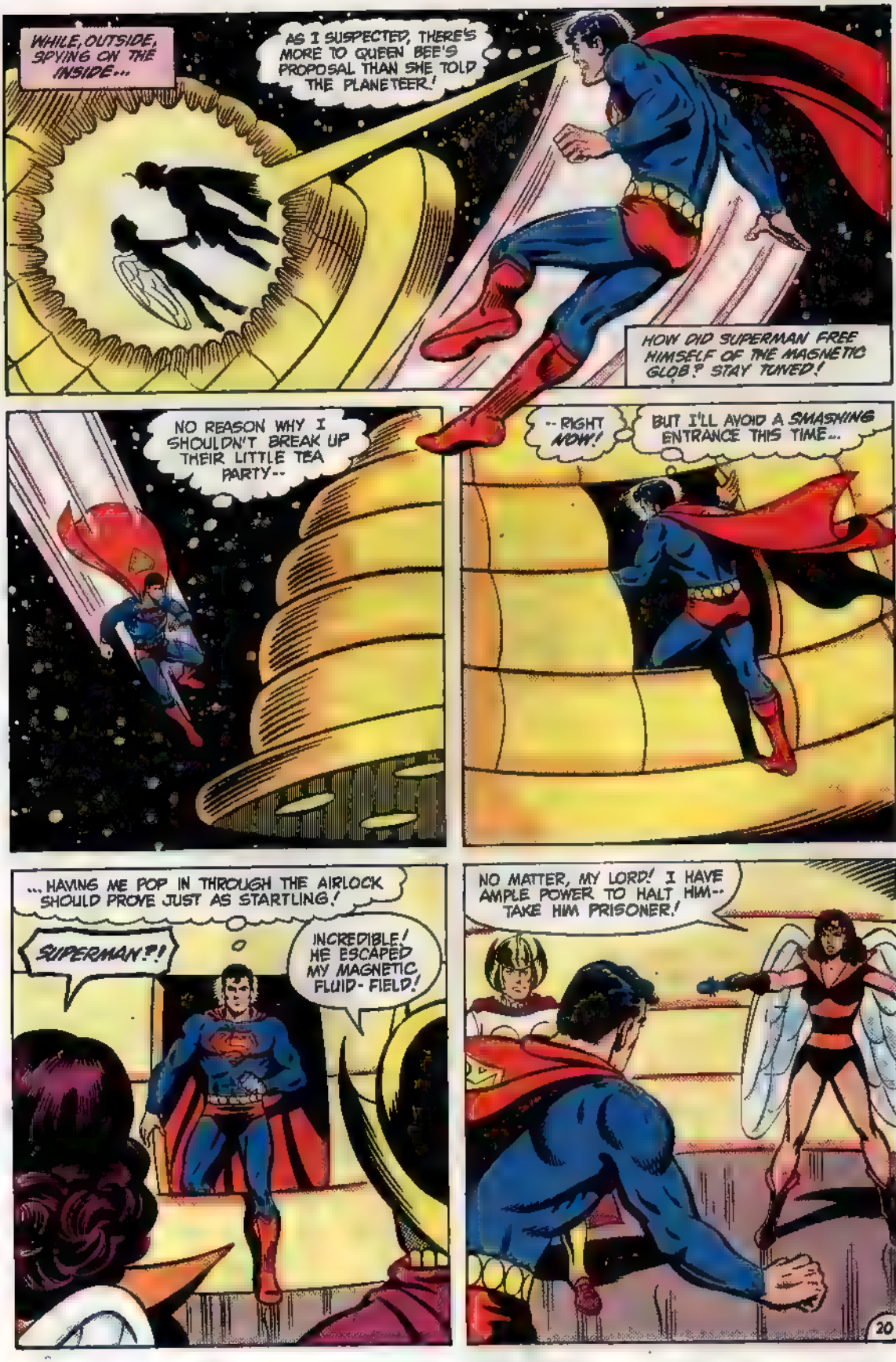

SHOW OVER ALREADY, FELLAS?
Y-YEAH! IT'S SO LOUSY, WE LEFT EARLY!

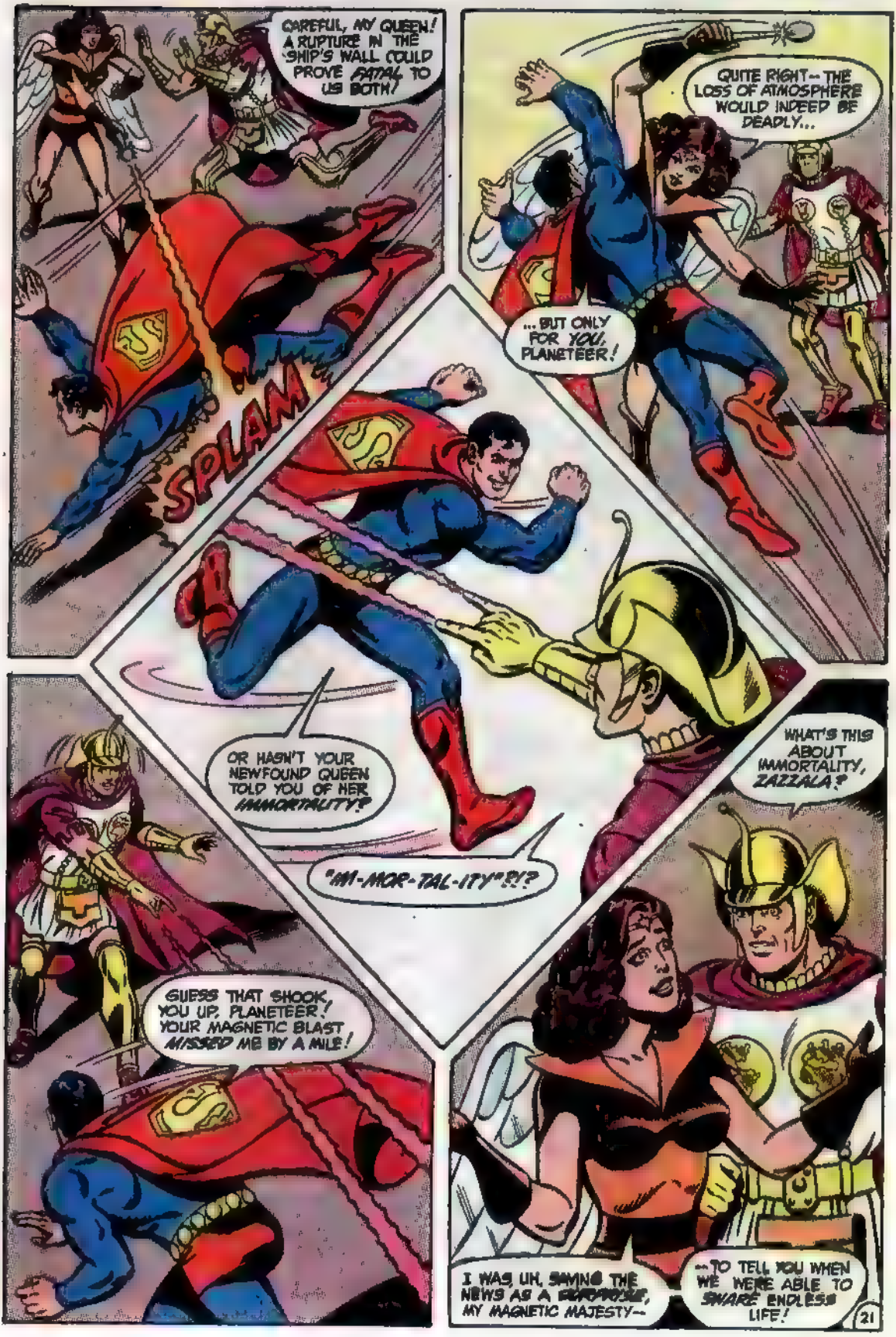
GRAB 'EM, OFFICERS! ;PANT! THEY STOLE THINGS ;PUFF! OUT OF COATS LEFT ON THE SEATS!
WE KNOW! WE GOT A TIP THESE TWO WOULD BE WORKING THIS OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE, SO WE HAD THE THEATER STAKED OUT!

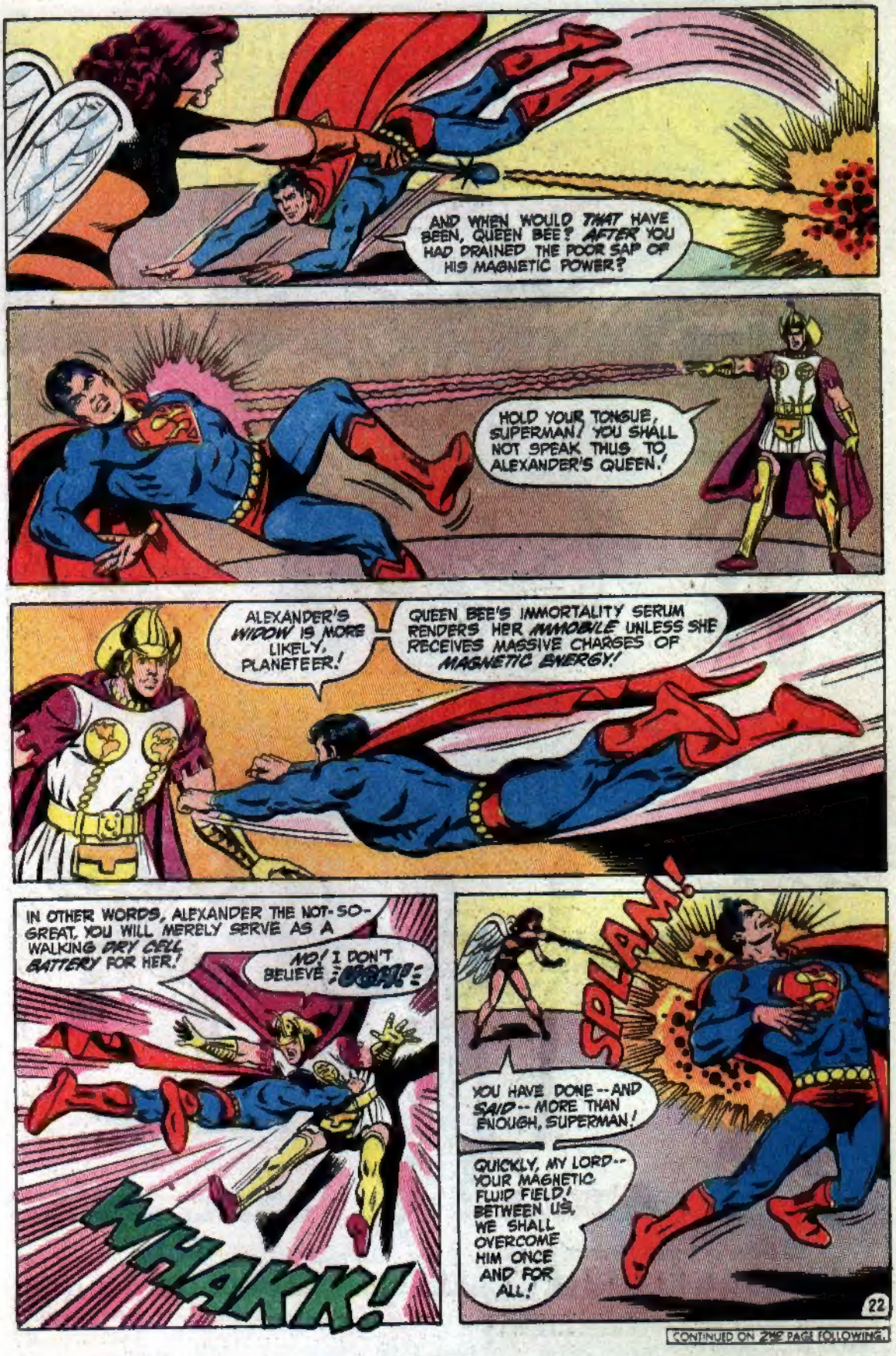

YOU'RE PERRY WHITE OF THE PLANET, RIGHT? IF YOU'LL STOP BY AT HEADQUARTERS AFTER THE SHOW...
NO PROBLEM, OFFICER! I'LL BE THERE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DEAR?

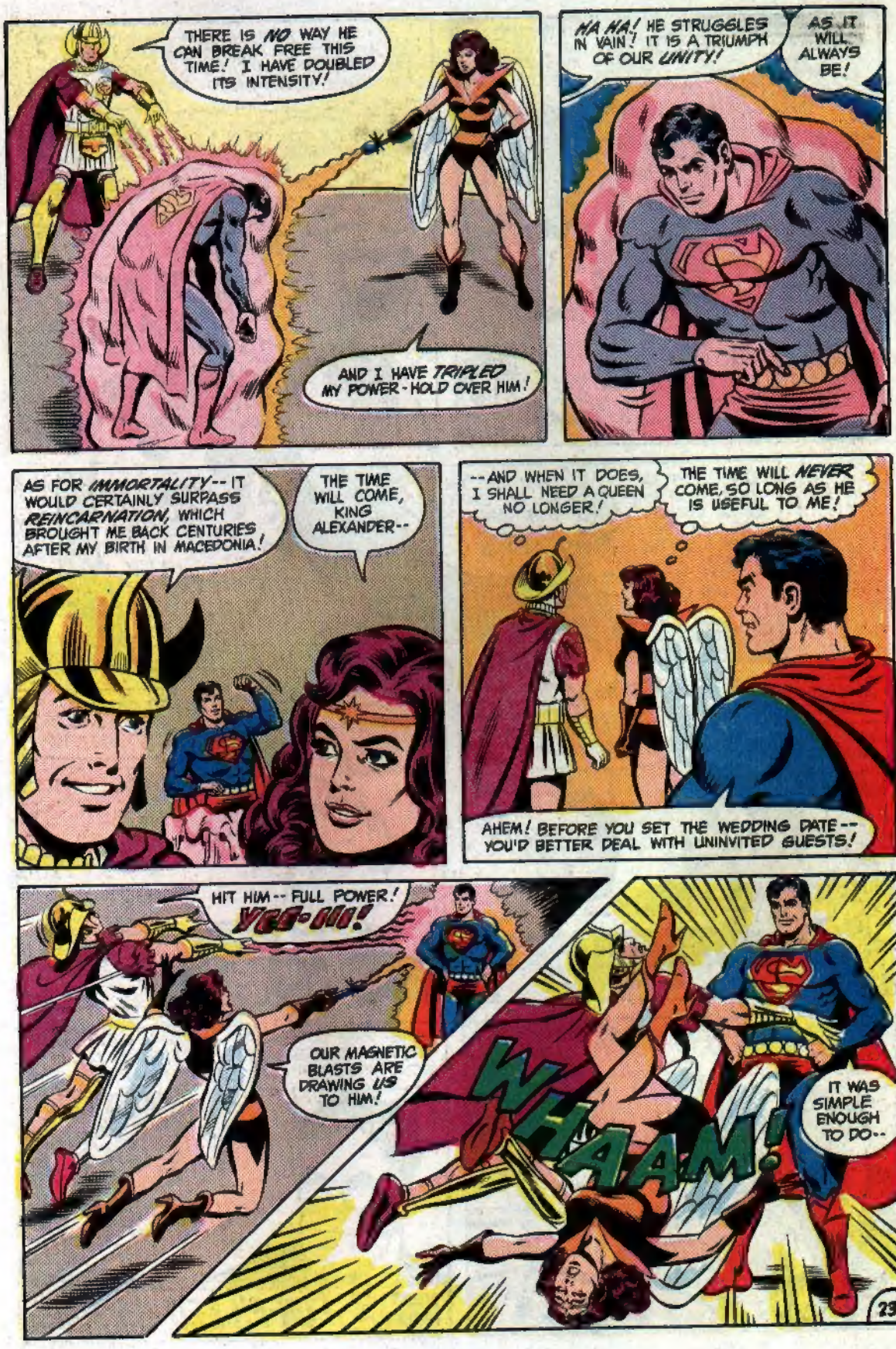
JUST A LITTLE WINDED! TOO MANY CIGARS!
PERRY WHITE, YOU STOP THAT! YOU'RE ONLY AS OLD AS YOU FEEL--
AND AFTER ALL, I AM OVER SIXTY-FIVE!
..AND FROM THE WAY YOU CHASED THOSE TWO, I'D SAY YOU MIGHT FEEL TOO YOUNG FOR LOIS, TOO!

MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE METROPOLIS...
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT, HIGHNESS! IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE, I HAD CONQUERED THE KNOWN WORLD!
YESTERDAY THE WORLD, TOMORROW THE UNIVERSE... WITH A LOVELY, LOVING QUEEN AT MY SIDE!
LET US DRINK TO THAT!
AH, THE NECTAR OF THE GODS! WHAT IS IT?
A SPECIALTY OF MY WORLD, YOUR GREATNESS--
-- WHICH WILL TURN YOU MOMENTARILY RIGID! LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DRAIN SOME OF YOUR MAGNETIC POWER AND REMAIN MOBILE!
OURS WILL BE A FULFILLING RELATIONSHIP -- MORESO THAN YOU SHALL EVER KNOW!
AH, HE'S ABOUT TO COME TO...
I TRUST YOU HAVE A PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF THIS DELICIOUS DRINK, MY DEAR!
I SHALL WANT TO ENJOY IT OFTEN!
AS SHALL I, MY LORD! AS SHALL I!
19

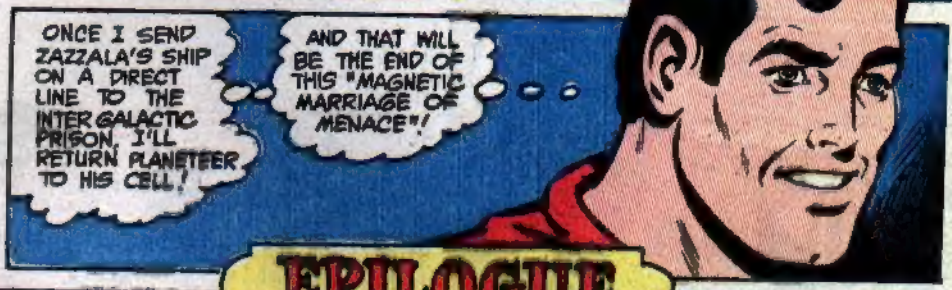

WHILE, OUTSIDE, SPYING ON THE INSIDE...
AS I SUSPECTED, THERE'S MORE TO QUEEN BEE'S PROPOSAL THAN SHE TOLD THE PLANETEER!
HOW DID SUPERMAN FREE HIMSELF OF THE MAGNETIC GLOB? STAY TUNED!
NO REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T BREAK UP THEIR LITTLE TEA PARTY--
--RIGHT NOW!
BUT I'LL AVOID A SMASHING ENTRANCE THIS TIME...
...HAVING ME POP IN THROUGH THE AIRLOCK SHOULD PROVE JUST AS STARTLING!
SUPERMAN?!
INCREDIBLE! HE ESCAPED MY MAGNETIC FLUID-FIELD!
NO MATTER, MY LORD! I HAVE AMPLE POWER TO HALT HIM-- TAKE HIM PRISONER!
20


CAREFUL, MY QUEEN! A RUPTURE IN THE SHIP'S WALL COULD PROVE FATAL TO US BOTH!
QUITE RIGHT-- THE LOSS OF ATMOSPHERE WOULD INDEED BE DEADLY...
...BUT ONLY FOR YOU, PLANETEER!
SPLAM
OR HASN'T YOUR NEWFOUND QUEEN TOLD YOU OF HER IMMORTALITY?
"IM-MOR-TAL-ITY"?!?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT IMMORTALITY, ZAZZALA?
GUESS THAT SHOOK YOU UP, PLANETEER! YOUR MAGNETIC BLAST MISSED ME BY A MILE!
I WAS, UH, SAVING THE NEWS AS A SURPRISE, MY MAGNETIC MAJESTY--
--TO TELL YOU WHEN WE WERE ABLE TO SHARE ENDLESS LIFE!
21


AND WHEN WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN, QUEEN BEE? AFTER YOU HAD DRAINED THE POOR SAP OF HIS MAGNETIC POWER?
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, SUPERMAN! YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK THUS TO ALEXANDER'S QUEEN!
ALEXANDER'S WIDOW IS MORE LIKELY, PLANETEER!
QUEEN BEE'S IMMORTALITY SERUM RENDERS HER IMMOBILE UNLESS SHE RECEIVES MASSIVE CHARGES OF MAGNETIC ENERGY!
IN OTHER WORDS, ALEXANDER THE NOT-SO-GREAT, YOU WILL MERELY SERVE AS A WALKING DRY CELL BATTERY FOR HER!
NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WHAKK!
SPLAM!
YOU HAVE DONE--AND SAID--MORE THAN ENOUGH, SUPERMAN!
QUICKLY, MY LORD--YOUR MAGNETIC FLUID FIELD! BETWEEN US, WE SHALL OVERCOME HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
22
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

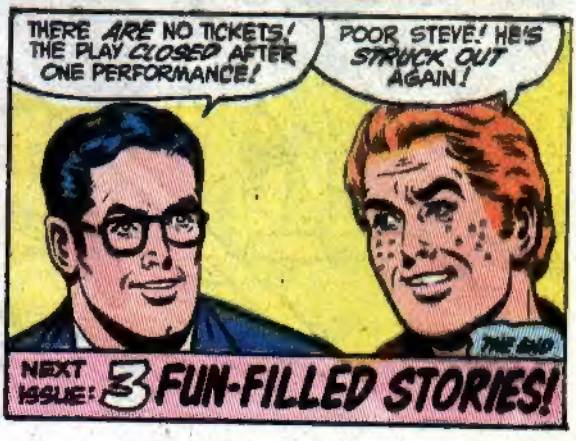

THERE IS NO WAY HE CAN BREAK FREE THIS TIME! I HAVE DOUBLED ITS INTENSITY!
AND I HAVE TRIPLED MY POWER - HOLD OVER HIM!
HA HA! HE STRUGGLES IN VAIN! IT IS A TRIUMPH OF OUR UNITY!
AS IT WILL ALWAYS BE!
AS FOR IMMORTALITY -- IT WOULD CERTAINLY SURPASS REINCARNATION, WHICH BROUGHT ME BACK CENTURIES AFTER MY BIRTH IN MACEDONIA!
THE TIME WILL COME, KING ALEXANDER--
--AND WHEN IT DOES, I SHALL NEED A QUEEN NO LONGER!
THE TIME WILL NEVER COME, SO LONG AS HE IS USEFUL TO ME!
AHEM! BEFORE YOU SET THE WEDDING DATE -- YOU'D BETTER DEAL WITH UNINVITED GUESTS!
HIT HIM -- FULL POWER! YES-!!!
OUR MAGNETIC BLASTS ARE DRAWING US TO HIM!
WHAAM!
IT WAS SIMPLE ENOUGH TO DO--

...AND TURNED MY FOES' REPELLING BLASTS INTO ATTRACTING FORCES, SLAMMING THEM INTO MY SUPER-BODY LIKE AN IRRESISTIBLE FORCE MEETING AN IMMOVABLE OBJECT!
IRRESISTIBLE TO THEM... RESISTIBLE TO ME!

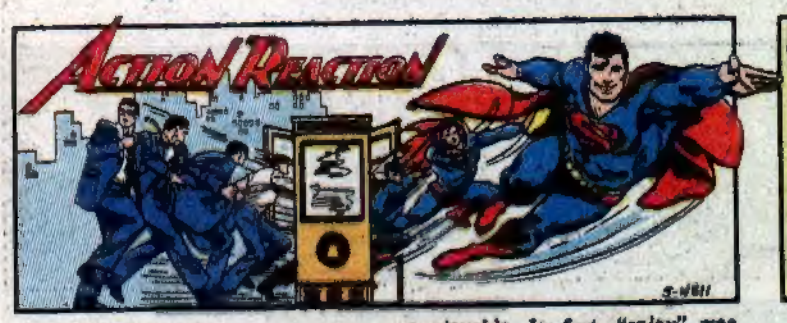

ONCE I SEND ZAZZALA'S SHIP ON A DIRECT LINE TO THE INTERGALACTIC PRISON, I'LL RETURN PLANETEER TO HIS CELL!
AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF THIS "MAGNETIC MARRIAGE OF MENACE"!

EPILOGUE

NEXT DAY, IN THE DAILY PLANET OFFICES...
HIYA, TROOPS--HOW WAS THE PLAY?
I WOULDN'T KNOW, JIMMY--I MISSED THE SECOND ACT!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE LOIS PREFERRED TO STAY IN THE LADIES' LOUNGE THE REST OF THE SHOW!?



NEXT ISSUE: 3 FUN-FILLED STORIES!



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Dear Editor:

Just wanted to write you a short letter and let you know how much I enjoyed "The All-Searing Eyes" in *ACTION COMICS* #558.

Writer Bob Rozakis and artist Kurt Schaffenberger combined to produce a story that seemed to come from 1964, not 1984. I was glad to see old Professor Potter back; where has he been for so long? It was also great to see Jimmy Olsen's signal watch again. You know, the one that goes "ZEE ZEE ZEE." It was also neat that *Supes* had to make the helmet over and over again until he got it right. It was far more believable.

Mr. Schaffenberger's artwork, as always, was a luscious feast for the eyes. He always shines brightest when he inks his own pencils. I'd love to see more of his artwork in *ACTION* and *SUPERMAN*.

By the way, what ever happened to Wayne Boring and Pete Costanza? I'd love to see them make a comeback.

"Hoax Night" wasn't half as good as the lead story, but it was redeemed by the art of Howard Bender and Dennis Jensen.

DAVID PULLEYBLANK
Denver, IA

Wayne Boring made his return here last issue, David; hope you didn't miss it. As for Mr. Costanza, we're sorry to say he passed away.— BR

*****

Dear Editor (and Bob),

I have in the past called Bob Rozakis "the King of the Eight-pagers," and I was quite sincere in this compliment, meaning that Bob is one of the few writers around who does not appear cramped with the shorter length and can thus turn out worthwhile stories in this format. (And besides, Bob does seem to get a lot of practice with this length—or at least he did when I so named him.)

Thus, I was pleased to see Bob get a shot at a "double eight-pager" in *ACTION* #558. However, to put the bad stuff up front, I fear that Bob has become too accustomed to the shorter length, since this story appears to be an eight-pager being stretched into a 16-page story. In other words, the action seemed drawn out, the pace lagged, and the conclusion was quite visible a long time before the story ended.

On the other hand, to save the good stuff for last, the tale was by no means unenjoyable. In fact, "enjoy" was probably the operative word, as it is with most Rozakis stories. Although *Superman* faced a definite crisis in the story, there was an overall tone of lighthearted fun: The characters did not spend pages agonizing over Great Issues of Cosmic Existence, and no one ended up much the worse for wear. A good, traditional type of effort.

The solid and always enjoyable Kurt Schaffenberger art completed the "old-timey" feeling.

T. M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ont. M9L 2R9

*****

Dear Julius and Bob,

The lead story in *ACTION* #558 was one of the most enjoyable stories of the Man of Steel in a long time. Too much of the time, *Superman* is wandering around with his head in a wringer. This story was just something to sit back and enjoy. Small wonder...it was written by Bob Rozakis. Most of his stories are that way. They are something for you to relax with, just sit down and read, and enjoy. Not enough comic stories are that way. Maybe Bob should be promoted to regular writer of *ACTION*.

JEF PECKHAM
503 Marlatt Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

Truth to tell, Jef, I much prefer being one of the rotating team of writers who handle the Man of Steel. Too much of any one writer's style of stories tends to become tedious after a while, making the mix all the more desirable. But thanks for the vote of confidence, and I hope you enjoyed this issue's full-lengther (24 pages) I've written...in which Superman is caught between the Queen Bee and the Planeteer in a battle for the Earth.—BR

*****

Dear Mr. Schwartz,

I opened up *ACTION COMICS* #558 and was delighted to see the refreshing art of Kurt Schaffenberger. There's no better backup artist for Curt Swan than Kurt.

Refreshing also was the story by Bob Rozakis. Professor Potter brought back memories, as did the flashback of *Elastic Lad*.

"Hoax Night," too, was refreshing. A great lighthearted story, very easy to enjoy. Excellent art job by Mr. Bender too.

RICK (L.A.) STEEL
Cleveland, OH

*****

Dear Julie:

"The All-Searing Eyes" by Bob and Kurt brought back childhood memories of *Superman* and Jimmy Olsen. Thank you.

JOHN BRITTAN
Daly City, CA 94015

*****

Dear Julius,

ACTION #558 was neat. No supermenace for our hero to face; *he* was the menace! Good old Professor Potter does it again. Schaffenberger's art is (as always) excellent. I'd love to someday meet Bob Rozakis; he's got one great imagination.

"Hoax Night" was really weird. You guys sure can pack a lot of story into a few pages.

Great work, gang!

TODD "CK" FREEMAN
8801 Cinnamon Creek Dr., Apt. 401
San Antonio, TX 78240

Are you basing what you say about my imagination just on the story, Todd, or on what you've seen in **THE SUPERMAN SUNDAY SPECIAL**, *which appears weekly in your local newspaper, the* **San Antonio Light**? *(That's a quick plug for our newspaper strip, folks. Yours truly handles the Sunday page, a compendium of puzzles, games, Superman trivia, and science facts, while* **ACTION** *regular Paul Kupperberg handles the daily strip—a Superman adventure continuity. Art on both by Jose Delbo and Sal Trapani. If it's not appearing in a paper near you, why not drop a note to the editor and ask for it? Thanks!)*

Anyway, the key word in most of the letters this month seems to be "enjoy," and that's a word we like to hear. As you know, we've altered the "formula" of our Superman magazines toward the type of material that first attracted the older readers of today...back in the '50s and '60s. If we can stir your memories and attract a new, young audience, we'll know we're succeeding!